

2017–2018 Featured Resources

The Center on Standards & Assessment Implementation (CSAI) is committed to providing state education agencies and regional comprehensive centers with research support, technical assistance, tools, and other resources to help inform decisions about standards, assessment, and accountability. When possible, CSAI takes the knowledge gathered as part of a specific project or technical assistance request and transforms it into a resource appropriate for a general audience. Below we feature CSAI's most popular resources, along with some of the new resources produced and published over the past year.

Formative Assessment Resources

Model Lesson Plans to Build Teacher Capacity in Promoting Deeper Learning Through Formative Assessment

This [series of resources](#) provides exemplary lesson plans for use in middle school English language arts, history, science, and mathematics. These model lesson plans exemplify use of formative assessment, with opportunities embedded throughout instruction to collect information about students' progress toward standards.

Formative Assessment: State Resources

CSAI is part of the Formative Assessment Bi-Regional Advisory Board, a consortium of seven states that are committed to incorporating formative assessment as part of their comprehensive assessment system. This group of [resources](#) includes state-specific assessment frameworks, model lessons, and planning guides, and is regularly updated with additional material.

Formative Assessment for Improving Native American Student Learning and Language Development professional learning modules

This series of professional [learning modules](#) addresses formative assessment implementation with Native American students across content areas and focuses more specifically on bringing formative assessment into Native American language classrooms. Each module includes videos, handouts, and prompts for working through the topics within a professional learning community.

Lesson Revision: Improving Lesson Plans with Formative Assessment and College and Career Ready Standards

This [resource](#) is designed to help teachers revise existing lesson plans so that they incorporate the formative assessment process and align with College and Career Ready Standards. Definitions and examples are included for each of the four steps in the process.

Setting the Stage for Formative Assessment webinars

This [series of webinars](#) is designed to support high-quality formative assessment at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Webinar 1 focuses on the role of the state education agency in formative assessment, while webinar 2 is centered around the role of districts.

Standards Resources

Standards Review and Revision toolkit

The [Standards Review and Revision Toolkit](#) includes information, examples, and associated resources to help state education agencies execute a defensible and transparent standards review and revision process. The resources are designed to ensure a successful implementation across all components of the education system, including professional development, curriculum, and assessment. Each of the five stages in the toolkit includes examples from states that have recently undergone these processes, as well as additional resources and a checklist for understanding particular stages and their implications.

Selected Alternatives for Assessing College and Career Readiness

States often use common summative assessments such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) or Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments to measure high school student performance. This [update](#) discusses alternatives to these tests, such as using local assessments, using performance-based assessments such as portfolios, or offering dual-enrollment programs.

Early Learning and Science Standards

This [update](#) features a literature review of early learning standards and science, specifically focused on the topics of engineering and domain-specific learning. It also includes a scan of selected states' early learning standards.

Standards Alignment to Curriculum and Assessment

This [update](#) is designed to help readers understand and define standards and alignment in the context of curriculum and assessment. After defining each of these terms, as well as their relationships to one another, state examples of curriculum and assessment alignment are provided. An additional annotated list of resources covers a variety of tools for assessment design, aligning standards and assessments, and developing assessment literacy.

Assessment Resources

Assessment Design Toolkit

The [Assessment Design Toolkit](#) includes videos and supplemental materials to help teachers write and select well-designed assessments. The toolkit includes 13 modules, each divided into four parts: key concepts, five elements of assessment design, writing and selecting assessments, and reflecting on assessment design.

Assessment System Visualizer

The [Assessment System Visualizer](#) (ASV) is an online, interactive tool intended to build the capacity of individuals seeking to analyze the components of their state, district, school, and/or classroom assessment systems and make decisions about how to improve them. The ASV can help answer questions about the characteristics of individual assessments and assessment systems, and also provides the ability to group assessments in order to provide information on how they are distributed (e.g., the number of assessments administered in each grade or content area).

Assessment Peer Review: Critical Elements Analysis Chart

This [resource](#) was constructed by analyzing the information contained in the decision letters issued by ED on each state's assessment system. The Critical Elements (CE) Analysis chart, available as an Excel download, allows users to compare feedback received in assessment peer review decision letters across states and/or CEs for which additional documentation was requested.

Evidence-Centered Design

Evidence-Centered Design (ECD) is a process intended to ensure a rigorous framework for developing assessments that actually measure their intended constructs and yield the evidence needed to support claims drawn from the results. Training materials covering ECD, including example questions and evidence, a framework for building assessments, and current constraints and recommendations, were developed into a [group of resources](#) posted to the CSAI website.

How Is My Child Doing? What Assessment Can Tell Parents about Their Child's Learning

This [update](#) provides information to parents on how to interpret three common types of assessment their child takes: classroom, district and school interim, and state annual assessments. Also included are examples of questions parents can ask teachers and administrators about assessment.

Science Assessment Item Collaborative white papers

The [Science Assessment Item Collaborative](#) (SAIC) has documented a range of options, accompanying rationales, and item cluster prototypes to guide the development of summative assessments for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These documents and prototypes address the major issues facing state education agencies and other entities that are implementing new science standards by documenting the processes needed to guide the development of assessments for the NGSS.

SAIC members produced a collection of three white papers on multidimensional science standards:

- Design and Development of Multidimensional Item Clusters, which examines development considerations and offers sample item cluster procedural design criteria.
- Quality Expectations and Development Considerations of Item Clusters Assessing Multidimensional Science Standards, which discusses several key considerations for designing and developing effective next generation science assessments.
- Alignment Considerations for Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, which explores the challenges of developing multidimensional assessment items and offers a guiding framework that can help practitioners maintain focus on alignment throughout all stages of development.

Valid and Reliable Assessments

Determining whether an assessment is valid and reliable is a technical process that goes beyond ensuring that test questions focus on material covered in state standards. This [update](#) defines validity and reliability, and their relationship to high-quality assessments, in a general context for educators and administrators. An annotated list of resources is included.

Using Student Assessment Data to Support Decision-Making

The availability of student-level data to educators has promoted the role of data in guiding instruction and improving student learning. This [update](#) discusses how to use student assessment data thoughtfully to improve decision-making and outcomes. Five recommendations are covered, each with steps for implementation and state examples. An annotated list of additional resources is also included.

English Learner Resources

English Language Proficiency Assessment update

This [update](#) documents how 15 states with approved ESSA plans handle the assessment of newly arrived students who enroll late in the school year. It includes each state's definition of English language proficiency (ELP), the timing of each state's ELP assessments, and statutory language from the U.S. Department of Education regarding these assessments.

High-Leverage Principles of Effective Instruction for English Learners

This [resource](#) provides teachers of English Language (EL) students with effective, high-leverage learning and teaching principles that can be incorporated into daily instructional plans and routines. Each principle is accompanied by examples that illustrate its use.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Resources

Measuring Social and Emotional Learning

Under ESSA, states can report at least one nonacademic indicator of student success in their accountability system, such as social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies. This [collection](#) of SEL resources identifies assessment tools and guidance documents to help schools, districts, and states consider how to measure students' social and emotional learning.

Planning for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Standards, Assessment, and Accountability

This [document](#) outlines considerations for states as they implement their approved consolidated ESSA state plans. Included are the different supports CSAI can provide to states and districts as they implement the standards, assessment, and accountability provisions of their ESSA plans.

Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority under ESSA FAQ

As part of ESSA, states have the opportunity to apply for Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority, a pilot program which allows states to administer innovative assessments in place of their regular statewide assessments in selected districts. This document outlines frequently asked [questions](#) states may have about the pilot program and provides information on the stipulations of the pilot program.

Additional Resources

State of the States

The [State of the States](#) is an interactive mapping tool that provides a snapshot of states' standards, assessment, and high school graduation implementation initiatives. Each section of the tool is updated annually, and it remains one of CSAI's most visited resources.

Standards-Based Instruction and the Role of Standards in Improved Student Outcomes

Transparency and consistency are key components of the teaching and learning process. This [update](#) demonstrates how the transparency and consistency required in standards-based instruction may improve student outcomes. Clear, consistent guidelines in the form of high-quality academic standards are part of an ongoing teaching and learning cycle that promotes reflection and mastery. State examples and an annotated list of resources are included.

STEAM Resources

STEAM integrates arts, innovation, and design into STEM education, and STEAM curriculum and activities are cross-disciplinary and project-based. STEAM lessons encourage students to explore the world around them, develop and create innovative solutions to problems, think deeply, work collaboratively, and communicate their results. This [collection](#) of STEAM resources includes guidance documents and curricular resources to help school, district, and state educators interested in implementing STEAM education programs.

State Scan of Professional Learning Activities

This [update](#) includes a scan of six states' professional development opportunities related to standards implementation practices. The scan was completed in order to examine how those states support their standards implementation processes. Information on the activities, delivery methods, participants, and frequency is included.



CSAI Update is produced by the The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI). CSAI, a collaboration between WestEd and CRESST, provides state education agencies (SEAs) and Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs) with research support, technical assistance, tools, and other resources to help inform decisions about standards, assessment, and accountability. Visit www.csai-online.org for more information.



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